REMARKS

The present application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated November 16, 2009. Claims 1-13, 15, and 17 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 2, 6, 9, 12, and 13 are in independent form. Claims 1-6, 9-13, 15, and 17 have been amended to define aspects of Applicant's invention more clearly. Favorable consideration is requested.

The Office Action states that Claims 1-13, 15, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,122,639 (*Babu et al.*). For at least the following reasons, Applicant submits that independent Claims 1, 2, 6, 9, 12, and 13, together with the claims dependent therefrom, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 1 is directed to a network device managing apparatus that receives search requests transmitted from data processing apparatuses, performs searches for network devices in response to receiving the search requests, and transmits device lists indicating the network devices found by performing the searches to the data processing apparatuses. The network device managing apparatus includes a first receiving unit, a first searching unit, a storage unit adapted, a second receiving unit, an obtaining unit, a second searching unit, a comparing unit, and a forming unit.

The first receiving unit receives, from a data processing apparatus, a first search request for a first search for network devices and identification information identifying the data processing apparatus that transmitted the first search request. In response to the first search request received by the first receiving unit, the first searching unit performs the first search for network devices. The storage unit stores a first device list indicating the network devices found by performing the first search.

Notably, the first device list is stored in association with the identification information identifying the data processing apparatus that transmitted the first search request. The second receiving unit receives, from a data processing apparatus, a second search request for a second search for network devices and identification information identifying the data processing apparatus that transmitted the second search request. In response to the second search request being received by the second receiving unit, the second searching unit performs the second search for network devices. If the identification information received by the second receiving unit is equal to the identification information associated with the first device list by the storage unit, the obtaining unit uses the identification information received by the second receiving unit as a key to obtain, from among device lists stored in the storage unit, the first device list associated with the identification information identifying the data processing apparatus that transmitted the first search request. The first device list indicating a first search result provided by the first searching unit. The comparing unit compares a second search result provided by the second searching unit with the first search result indicated by the first device. The forming unit specifies one or more network devices found by performing the second search by the second searching unit, but not present in the first search result indicated by the first device list, and forms a second device list in which the one or more network devices are emphasized among network devices found by performing the second search. The transmitting unit transmits the second device list formed by the forming unit to the data processing apparatus that transmitted the second search request.

By virtue of the operation of the storage, obtaining, comparing, and forming units, a server can receive a first search request from a first client, perform a first search based on the first search request, and store a first device list associated with information identifying the first

client in the storage unit, wherein the first device list includes results of performing the first search. In response to a second search request from the first client, the server can perform a second search and create a second device list that is updated based on the first device list associated with the information identifying the first client, wherein the second device list includes, in a bold face font, for example, devices found by performing the second search that are not included the first device list associated with the information identifying first client.[1]

Babu et al. is understood to relate to collecting, detecting changes in, reporting, and managing network device information (*see* col. 1, lines 5-8). *Babu et al.* discusses that a Network Management Server 102 can open and establish a Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) connection 112 with a browser running on a client 104 (*see* col. 6, lines 2-4, and 41-45). A network device 118 can respond to a Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) Query by providing "Basic Device Data" about the device 118, which can include a device name, a domain name in which the device is located, and a "Device Type" code that identifies a specific type of device, *e.g.*, a model number (*see* col. 7, line 67, to col. 8, line 6). The Device Type code received from the network device 118 can be mapped to a stored list of device types, in order to determine whether the Device Type of the responding network device is known and can be handled (*see* col. 8, lines 7-10).

Babu et al. also discusses that operation of a Collection Engine 20 can be initiated by supplying a device name 14, and other information with which the Collection Engine 20 can locate a device, such as SNMP community strings (*see* col. 7, lines 19-23). For example, an application program can request that the Collection Engine 20 collect data from a particular

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[1/] Any examples presented herein are intended for illustrative purposes and are not to be construed to limit the scope of the claims.

network device 118 by supplying a device name 14 that identifies the network device 118 (*see* col. 7, lines 23-28). In response, the Collection Engine 20 can send an SNMP message over a network to the network device 118 (*see* col. 7, lines 29-31). The network device 118 can respond by providing a device type identifier (*see* col. 7, lines 42-44). The Collection Engine 20 can gather information from many different network devices, each of which has different physical, hardware, software, and firmware characteristics (*see* col. 13, lines 14-17). Information collected by the Collection Engine 20 from a device can be defined by a set of database system tables called Management Information Base (MIB) Sets (*see* col. 13, lines 17-20). Each MIB Set can define a full set of device data to be collected and stored in a Destination Device Data Table (*see* col. 13, lines 20-22). A collection of MIB Sets needed to fully describe a particular device can be determined by a Device Class to which a device belongs, which can be determined by acquiring a device type identifier or sysObjectID from the device, mapping the sysObjectID to the Device Type, and then mapping the Device Type to the Device Class (*see* col. 13, lines 22-28).

The Collection Engine 20 can stores "current" values received from the device 118 in a Main Memory 506, which allows values received in the past and stored in a Database 40 to be stored into memory and related (*see* col. 12, lines 45-55). Alternatively, the Database 40 can maintain one set of tables that store the "current" values received from the device 118 and a separate set of tables of values that have been received in the past (*see* col. 12, lines 55-58).

In addition, *Babu et al.* discusses that a device type identifier 16 can be used as a key to a Device Type Table 44, which contains rows for unique SysObjectID values and columns for class identifiers for the devices, names of the devices, manufacturers of the devices, and descriptions of the devices (*see* col. 8, lines 10-16, and col. 12, lines 34-36). Information from the Device Type Table 44 can be used to determine a device class, which can be obtained from a

Device Class Table 46 (*see* col. 12, lines 34-36). The Collection Engine 20 can use a Device Class to MIB Set Table in the Database 40, to look up identifiers for MIB Sets 50 that match the device type identifier 116 (*see* col. 12, lines 36-39). Upon receiving the identifiers for matching MIB Sets 50, the Collection Engine 20 can request that the Database 40 retrieve copies of the MIB Sets 50, which the Database 40 returns to the Collection Engine 20 (*see* col. 12, lines 39-44).

Babu et al. further discusses that a change detection mechanism can generate a report containing change information, and that database updates can be found during a database key comparison phase of the change detection mechanism (*see* col. 15, lines 7-10, and lines 28-30). A comparison can be performed to detect changes in a device's configuration, and the detected changes can be stored in a change table of a database (*see* col. 15, lines 41-45). Column names displayed by the change detection mechanism can be consistent with column names or labels displayed by an application program that defined them, which allows the change detection mechanism to work with any database table, independent of the column layout of such (*see* col. 14, lines 19-26).

As best understood by Applicant, the database tables of *Babu et al.* contain information about the network devices 118 and information collected from the network devices 118; however, these tables are not understood to be associated with information identifying a particular client 104 that requested information about the network devices 118. Accordingly, when the client 104 requests that the Collection Engine 20 provide information collected from a particular network device 118, the Collection Engine 20 is not understood to retrieve from the Database 40 tables associated with information identifying the client 104 that requested the information. Instead, the tables stored by the Database 40 that include network information

collected from a particular network device 118 are understood to be associated with information identifying the particular network device 118.

In summary, nothing has been found in *Babu et al.* that is believed to teach or suggest a network device managing apparatus that includes a "storage unit adapted to store a first device list indicating the network devices found by performing the first search, the first device list being stored in association with the identification information identifying the data processing apparatus that transmitted the first search request," an "obtaining unit adapted to use the identification information received by the second receiving unit as a key to obtain, from among device lists stored in the storage unit, the first device list associated with the identification information identifying the data processing apparatus that transmitted the first search request, if the identification information received by the second receiving unit is equal to the identification information associated with the first device list by the storage unit, the first device list indicating a first search result provided by the first searching unit," a "comparing unit adapted to compare a second search result provided by the second searching unit with the first search result indicated by the first device list obtained by the obtaining unit," and a "forming unit adapted to specify one or more network devices found by performing the second search by the second searching unit but not present in the first search result indicated by the first device list obtained by the obtaining unit, and to form a second device list in which the one or more network devices are emphasized among network devices found by performing the second search," as recited in Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is not anticipated by *Babu et al.*, and respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Independent Claims 2, 6, 9, 12, and 13 include features sufficiently similar to those of Claim 1 that these claims are believed to be patentable over the cited art for at least the

reasons discussed above. The other claims in the present application depend from one or another of independent Claims 1, 2, 6, and 9, and are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim also is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, individual consideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable consideration and an early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

/Lock See Yu-Jahnes/
Lock See Yu-Jahnes
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 38,667

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
1290 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10104-3800
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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